

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for measuring the length of a cable being fed to processing stations for processing, wherein a cable-advancing device advances the cable and feeding devices
5 feed the cable-ends to the processing stations, comprising:

a cable-end detector for detecting a leading cable-end of a cable being advanced
by a cable-advancing device along a measuring path, said cable-end
detector being positioned at an end of the measuring path for generating a
reference measurement signal representing a detection of the leading cable-
10 end.

2. The device according to claim 1 wherein said cable-end detector has piezo-
elements arranged on a support with a foot, said foot being movable into and out of
contact with the cable.

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3. The device according to claim 1 wherein said cable-end detector has a foot
being movable into and out of contact with the cable, said cable-end detector being
movable along the measuring path at least until said foot leaves contact with the leading
cable-end.

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4. A method for measuring a length of a cable being fed to processing stations
for processing, wherein a cable-advancing device advances the cable and feeding devices
feed cable-ends of the cable to the processing stations, comprising the steps of:

a) operating the cable-advancing device to advance the cable under
25 separating/stripping cutters which cut off the leading cable-end of the
cable;

b) advancing the cable by a length measured by the cable-advancing device, the
leading cable-end being passed under a cable-end detector; and

c) moving one of the cable and the cable-end detector until the leading cable-
30 end leaves the cable-end detector, a difference between the length
measured in said step b) and the movement in said step c) representing an
actual length of the cable.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein said step c) is performed by withdrawing the cable relative to the cable-end detector.

5 6. The method according to claim 4 wherein said step c) is performed by moving the cable-end detector relative to the leading cable-end.

7. The method according to claim 4 including using the actual length of the cable to calculate a correction factor in a control for use in subsequent cable-processing.

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8. The method according to claim 7 including using the correction factor to correct a length of a subsequent cable advanced by the cable-advancing device.

9. A cable processing apparatus comprising:
15 a cable-advancing device for advancing a cable with a leading cable-end along a measuring path; and
 a cable-end detector for detecting a leading cable-end of a cable being advanced by a cable-advancing device along a measuring path, said cable-end detector being positioned at an end of the measuring path for generating a
20 reference measurement signal representing a detection of the leading cable-end.

10. The device according to claim 9 wherein said cable-end detector has piezo-elements arranged on a support with a foot, said foot being movable into and out of
25 contact with the cable.

11. The device according to claim 9 wherein said cable-end detector has a foot being movable into and out of contact with the cable, said cable-end detector being movable along the measuring path at least until said foot leaves contact with the leading
30 cable-end.